REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 33-44 remain pending in this application. Claims 35 and 37-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 44 has been added.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for conducting an interview with the undersigned and Applicants' representative on December 12, 2007. During the interview, the differences between the present invention and the cited art were explained.

In particular, it was pointed out during the interview that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 33, is directed to a storage system that includes a plurality of non-removable storage volumes. In response to a verification command from the computer to determine if a removable storage device is present, one of the non-removable storage volumes is indicated as being a removable storage device by being virtualized as a virtualized removable storage device. The virtualized removable storage device is related to a first storage volume and not related to a plurality of other storage volumes.

As a result, as set forth in dependent claim 34, in order for the computer to be booted, the first storage volume is recognized while a plurality of other storage volumes are not recognized. This way the computer can be booted more quickly. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the

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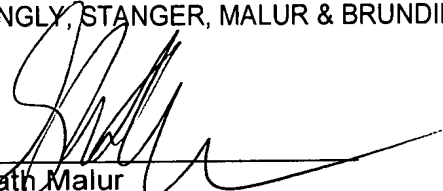Reply to Office Action of

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undersigned by telephone with any questions in order to expedite prosecution of this

application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely

Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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